

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCA-01 IO-14 OMB-01 /139 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:WSSHEPARD/FDR

APPROVED BY EUR/EE:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:CBROWN

EA/VN: LPETERS (PARAS 5-6)

EUR/GRK: JDAY (PARA 4)

EUR/EE:NANDREWS

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R 202349Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208694

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,CY,VN,HU

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH KOVACS

REF: A. BUDAPEST 2551; B. STATE 204286; C. BUDAPEST 2457;

D. STATE 203915

1. ANDREWS CALLED IN HUNGARIAN DCM KOVACS SEPT 18 FOR DISCUSSION US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MESTERHAZY CASE, VARSA VISA REFUSAL, GOH CYPRUS PRESS COVERAGE, AND ICCS BUDGET. ANDREWS BEGAN MEETING BY AFFIRMING OUR DESIRE TO MAKE PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO POSSIBLE VISIT FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BIRO THIS FALL AND ARE STUDYING LATEST HUNGARIAN EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS DRAFT. OTHER MATTERS WERE MORE DIFFICULT.

2. DIVIDED FAMILIES: MESTERHAZY (REF A). ANDREWS REFERRED TO OUR GENERAL AND CONTINUING CONCERN THAT FAMILIES BE REUNITED, THEN OUTLINED FACTS IN MESTERHAZY CASE, INCLUDING
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SEPT. 6 CONSULAR AND SEPT. 11 POLITICAL DISCUSSION IN

BUDAPEST WITH AMBASSADOR VARKONYI. MESTERHAZY CASE ROUTINE IN THE SENSE THAT THERE WERE RELATIVES BOTH IN US AND HUNGARY. SPECIAL PROBLEM HERE IS THAT FATHER HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES, INCLUDING FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SENATOR LONG AND CONGRESSMAN VANIK, CO-SPONSOR JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. SEEMS THEREFORE

TO US THAT GOH REFUSAL CAN HAVE VERY ADVERSE EFFECTS FOR OUR RELATIONS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT AMBASSADOR VARKONYI HAD SAID THAT GOH HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ALL IMPLICATIONS OF CASE, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS APPLICATION AND TRADE REFORM ACT HAS NOT BEEN RECOGNIZED. WE VERY SINCERELY WANT TO AVOID A REVERSE IN OUR RELATIONS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS DAMAGE, THE ONLY PRACTICAL SOLUTION IS TO GRANT MESTERHAZY AND FAMILY EXIT PAPERS QUIETLY AND QUICKLY AND GET THE CASE OUT OF THE WAY. SINCE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HUNGARIAN REFUSAL REACHED US (REF A), WE HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS CALLS FROM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES. THIS INTEREST WILL CONTINUE. MESTERHAZY'S ONLY INTEREST IS FOR HIS FAMILY TO LEAVE HUNGARY. IF CASE ISN'T SOLVED, THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES WE WOULD VERY MUCH PREFER TO AVOID.

3. VARSA (REF B). ANDREWS STRESSED THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHY VARSA VISA APPLICATION WAS REFUSED, BECAUSE WE WERE NOT TOLD. STATEMENT THAT IF ANYBODY ELSE APPLIES PERHAPS VISA COULD BE GRANTED INSUFFICIENT. WE DO NOT AGREE TO HAVE PEOPLE APPLY POINTLESSLY. IF REASON EXISTS FOR TURN-DOWN, WE DESERVE EXPLANATION. WE UNDERSTAND VARSA LEFT HUNGARY LEGALLY AT 17, AND DOES NOT HAVE HUNGARIAN CITIZENSHIP.

4. CYPRUS (REF C). ANDREWS SAID WE RECOGNIZE CYPRUS SITUATION HAS BEEN VERY CONFUSING, BUT WE HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY HUNGARIAN PRESS HAS TO BRING IN "NATO CIRCLES." IF THEY WANT TO TALK ABOUT GREECE AND TURKEY, THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT TO TALK ABOUT "NATO CIRCLES" IS TO SAY ALL NATO MEMBERS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CRISIS. TO SAY THAT FORMER GREEK MILITARY REGIME WANTED TO OVERTHROW MAKARIOS IS ONE THING, BUT TO SAY "NATO" CONFIDENTIAL

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IS TO INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES. SPECIFICALLY, AUG. 28 NEPSZABADSAG EDITORIAL (BUDAPEST 2389) WAS PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE. WHAT WAS MEANT BY "THAT BLOODY DRAMA ORGANIZED BY NATO'S HIGHEST LEADERSHIP?" THIS KIND OF PRESS COVERAGE IS NOT HELPFUL AND WE OBJECT TO ANY INCLUSION OF THE UNITED STATES IN REFERENCES OF THIS KIND.

5. ICCS (REF D). ANDREWS STRESSED THAT THE TWO VIET-

NAMESE COMMUNIST PARTIES SHOULD APPROVE AND PAY THEIR SHARES OF ICCS BUDGET. WE ASK THAT GOH ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO. ANDREWS ALSO ASKED THAT HUNGARIAN DELEGATION REDEPLOY TO SUBREGIONAL SITES VACATED LAST YEAR ON TRANSPORTATION AND SECURITY GROUNDS, AND STATED OUR GENERAL DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ICCS HAD NOT TAKEN MORE ACTIVE

PEACEKEEPING ROLE.

6. KOVACS REPLIED HE WOULD INFORM AMBASSADOR SZABO NEXT DAY OF CONVERSATION, AND THAT MFA WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INFORMED. HE GAVE AS A PERSONAL REACTION THAT MESTERHAZY NOT USUAL TYPE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASE, AS "ENTIRE FAMILY" IN HUNGARY. ANDREWS SAID THAT GOH MIGHT FEEL THEY HAVE GOOD RECORD IN REUNIFICATION DIVIDED FAMILIES, BUT THAT SOME OF OUR PEOPLE MAY FEEL THAT HUNGARIAN RECORD DEPENDS UPON HOW GOH TREATS THIS PARTICULAR CASE. ON VARSA, KOVACS SAID THAT IT WAS NOT INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE TO GIVE EXPLANATION WHEN VISA APPLICATION IS DENIED. ANDREWS REPLIED THAT US GIVES REASONS, AND THAT WE ARE LEFT WITH FEELING THAT NOBODY FROM VOA HUNGARIAN SERVICE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. AS MINIMUM, WE NEED INFORMAL ADVICE IN THE MATTER. GOH SHOULD LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE IF PARTICULAR APPLICATION PRESENTS A PROBLEM. ON ICCS, KOVACS BLAMED ICCS PROBLEMS ON GVN, WHICH HE CALLED "THE ONLY PROBLEM", AND SAID, GOH WISHED TO PLAY EVEN-HANDED ROLE AND COULD NOT TAKE SIDES BY INTERVENING WITH ANY PARIS AGREEMENT SIGNATORY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER ICCS HAD ANY FUTURE AT ALL IF VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS FAILED TO PAY THEIR SHARES, KOVACS LAMELY REFERRED TO EXISTING ARRANGEMENT OF AD HOC PAYMENTS BY USG. KOVACS CONCLUDED BY SAYING EMBASSY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US WHEN MFA REACTIONS RECEIVED TO ANY OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BUDGETS, PRESS COMMENTS, VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE208694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WSSHEPARD/FDR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740265-1140
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740925/aaaaavlr.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. BUDAPEST 2551; B. STATE 204286; C. . BUDAPEST 2457;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH KOVACS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, VN, HU, ICCS, (MESTERHAZY), (VARSA)
To: BUDAPEST
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005